

AGENDA



Thursday, February 14, 2008

Public Works

Item No. 38

RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION

Subject: Approve an ordinance amending Section 12-4-64 (D) of the City Code to establish a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour on certain streets bounded by East Ben White Boulevard to the north, East Stassney Lane to the south, South 1st Street to the east, and South Congress Avenue to the west.

Amount and Source of Funding: Funding in the amount of \$4500 is available in the Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Operating Budget of the Public Works Department for installation of necessary signs.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Richard Kroger 974-7219, Thomas Kennerly 974-7246, Anthony Alvarado 974-7287, Robin Field 974-7064.

Texas Transportation Code Section 545.356 allows a city to set a speed limit lower than 30 miles per hour, but not less than 25 miles per hour, on a highway if:

- the highway is not an officially designated or marked highway or road in the state highway system;
- the highway is 35 feet or less in width;
- vehicular parking is not prohibited on one or both sides of the street;
- the highway has less than four lanes used for vehicular travel, and
- the Council finds that the previous prima facie speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe.

The City of Austin Public Works Department recommends the 25 mile per hour speed limit for certain streets in the area bounded by E. Ben White Boulevard to the north, E. Stassney Lane to the south, S. 1st Street to the west, and S. Congress Avenue to the east. The lower speed limit will reduce the potential for vehicle-pedestrian accidents. Most of the streets within the area are eligible for a 25-mile per hour speed limit. The exceptions are Ramble Lane from S. 1st Street to S. Congress Avenue and W. St. Elmo Road from S. 1st Street to S. Congress Avenue, because these streets are wider than 35 feet or vehicular parking is prohibited on one or both sides of the street. It is not included in the recommended Code changes. The ordinance includes a finding that the previous prima facie speed limit is unreasonable or unsafe, in accordance with the statute.

Staff recommends that Section 12-4-64(D) be amended to add the following streets to the list of streets with a maximum speed limit of 25 miles per hour.

Arbor Lane from 1st Street (South) to Harvest Lane.
 Blue Bird Lane from Stassney Lane (West) to the end of Blue Bird Lane.
 Clarke Street from 1st Street (South) to the end of Clarke Street.
 Clover Court from 1st Street (South) to the end of Clover Court.
 Creekline Drive from Ramble Lane to Heartwood Drive.
 Garnett Street from St. Elmo Road (West) to Lareina Drive.
 Gate Tree Lane from 1st Street (South) to Harvest Lane.
 Goliad Lane from Philco Drive to Pastel Place.
 Greenheart Drive from Wood Bine Drive to Ramble Lane.

Harvest Circle from Ramble Lane to the end of Harvest Circle.
Harvest Lane from Ramble Lane to Gate Tree Lane.
Heartwood Drive from 1st Street (South) to Hedgewood Drive.
Hedgewood Drive from Wood Bine Drive to Ramble Lane.
Humming Bird Lane from Stassney Lane (West) to Mockingbird Lane (West).
Lareina Drive from St. Elmo (West) to the end of Lareina Drive.
Mockingbird Lane (West) from Harvest Lane to Congress Avenue (South).
Normandy Street from 1st Street (South) to the end of Normandy Street.
Pastel Place from Philco Drive to Goliad Lane.
Philco Drive from 1st Street (South) to the end of Philco Drive.
Radam Lane from 1st Street (South) to Congress Avenue (South).
Red Bird Lane from Humming Bird Lane to Congress Avenue (South).
Richland Street from Radam Lane to Clarke Street.
Southview from Lareina Drive to Garnett Street.
Thistlewood Drive from Creekline Drive to Heartwood Drive.
Wood Bine Drive from Creekline Drive to Heartwood Drive.